Welcome to a NEW Semester

The Office of International Student Services (ISS) provides a mandatory orientation program during the week before classes start each semester. All new international students are expected to Check-In and attend Orientation. The director, international peers, faculty, and university staff (Residence Life, Health Insurance, Health Services, Library, etc.) provide information and guidance to facilitate a smooth transition for new international students to the campus and community. Information is provided on academic, financial, personal, social, institutional, cross-cultural and governmental issues.

Orientation Week Information

Orientation is MANDATORY for all new students. New International Student Orientation will take place on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Orientation begins with breakfast at 8:30am. Breakfast will be held in the PAC Lobby, which is on the second floor of the Performing Arts Center. Please bring your immigration documents to the orientation. We will be completing your Immigration Check-In at the Orientation.
From the Director’s Desk

Summer 2019 is going fast. Before we know it, our new cohort of international students will be arriving to join those continuing their studies at UIS. We look forward to welcoming all of them, to learning from them about the cultures and countries from which they have come, and to sharing with them the best that Springfield, Illinois, and the USA have to offer.

It has been my pleasure to have worked with international students for a very long time, but I never tire of meeting more, getting to know them, and making new and enduring friendships. What we share is always greater than our differences. And, the differences that are there enrich us all.

I hope that everyone reading these words will make it a personal goal to get to know at least one other person from another part of the world during the first few days of the new semester and that that relationship will become a most treasured component of her time spent at UIS.

Rick Lane, Director

Let’s Take a Trip to Saint Louis — Sep.6th  2019

In September, the Office of International Student Services will be taking a group of international students to Saint Louis. St. Louis is a major independent city and inland port in the U.S. state of Missouri. It is situated along the western bank of the Mississippi River, which marks Missouri’s border with Illinois. The Missouri River merges with the Mississippi River just north of the city. These two rivers combined form the fourth longest river system in the world.

We are glad to be able to offer such a wonderful trip again and hope that international students will take advantage of taking part in a wonderful experience.
Jane Carter is from Drury, New Zealand located just outside of Auckland. The national language in New Zealand in English, but Jane said she would love to learn other languages, too.

Jane describes her hometown as “a very beautiful and green place. We are lucky enough to have beaches, mountains and forests. What I like best about it is that it is very close to the ocean, the culture is very laid back and I believe that the country as a whole is very proud.”

She came to UIS to pursue her master’s in Communication. When we asked her about her hobbies, she told us that she loves the outdoors and being with family and friends. She also has a passion for sports such as tennis and soccer. She told us that she enjoys lakes and beaches and good food and drink!

Jane’s favorite movie is Step-Up. The dance scenes, the humor, and the love story are her favorite parts. A hashtag that best describes Jane is #hungry. Jane loves a roast meal in her home country. In the US, her favorite restaurant spot is Panda Express and she loves watermelon!

Although most people have a dream car, Jane doesn’t. She would prefer a more basic car and use her extra money to buy other things like a jet ski and a boat.

We asked Jane what advice she would give a new student arriving at UIS and she said, “get involved in everything that the campus has to offer. You will find that people are very willing and welcoming and make sure you try everything!”

Jane doesn’t have a clear plan for her future, but she would love to travel and see a lot of the world before settling down. She’s sure that she will return to New Zealand at some stage but doesn’t know if that will be sooner or later.
Claudia Falcon Adanaque is from Lima, Peru. She speaks Spanish and English, has a bachelor’s degree in Industrial Engineering and is now pursuing a master’s degree in Public Administration at UIS.

She describes her home country as “beautiful and very diverse with an amazing culture. What I like the best about Peru is the food because it is delicious, being one of the best in the world.” Her favorite food in her country is “Ceviche”, which is a dish made with raw fish, lemon juice, and onions, basically. In the United States, her favorite food is grilled beef with mashed potatoes. She told us that she doesn’t only enjoy food, she also like the people because they are very kind, friendly and are always happy.

When asked about her hobbies and interests, Claudia told us that she loves swimming, going to the cinema and hanging out with her friends. Her favorite movie is “Life is Beautiful” because it goes back to the Nazi Era where the main actor, very cleverly, prevents his son from realizing what they were really living.

For the new international students coming to UIS, Claudia would offer guidance to be perseverant, humble, and focus on your studies from the very start to get better results.

Claudia has great plans for her future. She’s dreaming of an Audi RS Q3 and wants to secure a position in a public organization to put into practice the knowledge acquired in her degree program.
Upcoming Events...Don’t miss them!

New Student Move-In
Tuesday, 8/20/19
Freshmen, New Transfer and Graduate Students

New international student Explore Downtown by bus
Thursday, August 22, 12 PM
Meet at 1st floor of the Student Union

Resume Mania | Monday, August 26th
2pm-4pm SAB 50 Students can have their resume/cover letter critiqued by our career staff. Students can drop-in or call-in to have their resume and cover letter critiqued

Chancellor’s Picnic
Tuesday August 27th, 4:30-6pm
Student Union Plaza

2019 Foot in the Door Fair
Thursday, August 29, 3 PM-5:30 PM
Student Union ballroom

New international student welcome party
Friday, August 30, 5 PM – 8 PM
Student Union ballroom

Mid Autumn Festival Friday, September 13th
The Mid-Autumn Festival in China is a celebration that begins on the 15th day of the 8th month on the Chinese lunar calendar
Mid-Autumn Festival

The mid-autumn festival is a harvest festival celebrated primarily by Chinese and Vietnamese people. It is celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month in the traditional lunar calendar.

The age-old tradition of this festival has its origin in the folklore of the Chinese moon goddess, Chang’e. It is believed that Chang’e, to protect her beloved husband Houyi’s elixir, drank it herself and rose to the moon. Houyi realizing what had happened started offering her favorite fruits and cakes to the moon.

In the evening of the Mid-Autumn Festival, people get together and eat dinner with their family. After dinner, they offer sacrifices to the moon with the belief that it will bring them good fortune and Chang’e to commemorate her actions. The sacrifices generally include symbolic fruits and mooncakes.

The Mooncake is a special food for the Mid-Autumn festival. Their round shape typically symbolize the reunion of families and they are presented to relatives and friends as a sign of wishing them a long and happy life. The Fire Dragon Dance and lantern making are also some common activities people engage in, during the festival.

Indian Independence day

Independence Day is annually celebrated on 15 August, as a national holiday in India commemorating the nation's independence from the United Kingdom on 15 August 1947, the UK Parliament passed the Indian Independence Act 1947 transferring legislative sovereignty to the Indian Constituent Assembly. India still retained King George VI as head of state until its transition to full republican constitution. India attained independence following the Independence Movement noted for largely non-violent resistance and civil disobedience led by the Indian National Congress (INC). Independence coincided with the partition of India, in which the British India was divided along religious lines into the Dominions of India and Pakistan.
Eid al-Adha, Saturday, August 10—Sunday, August 11

Known as Eid al-Adha, Eid ul Adha, Id-ul-Azha, Id-ul-Zuha, Hari Raya Haji, Greater Eid or Bakr-id; the 'Feast of Sacrifice' is the most important feast of the Muslim calendar. Eid al-Adha falls on the 10th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the twelfth and final month in the Islamic calendar. During the feast of Eid Al Adha, Muslims re-enact Ibrahim's obedience by sacrificing a cow or ram. The family will eat about a third of the meal, a third goes to friends and relatives, and the remaining third is donated. The giving of charity in the form of money, food, or clothes is another key tradition of Eid al Adha. As the exact day is based on lunar sightings, the date may vary between countries. The date shown above is based on the date of Eid al-Adha in Saudi Arabia.

Eid al-Adha around the world. In Pakistan, the holiday is known as Eid ul-Azha and will be celebrated over several days. The date is set by the Central Ruet-e-Hilal Committee who meet to decide the sighting of the Zul Hajjah moon.

In the Philippines, Eid ul Adha has been a public holiday since 2002. The date is set by a proclamation each year, usually issued a week or so before the date.

In Turkey, the feast is known as Kurban Bayramı and is the most important religious festival of the year and is a four day holiday.
Summer event in Springfield

The Muni, in summer, an outdoor theatre is a big deal in the US.

Many people bring in portable chairs, a spreading sheet, and favorite food and beverages and watch a production. The Springfield Municipal Opera Association (The Muni) will provide two productions in July and August. It would be a good opportunity for you to enjoy a musical production in the summer evening.


9th Annual Downhome Music Festival:

July 26 and 27, 2019

The 9th Annual Downhome Music Festival will be held in the Springfield downtown. It will feature all local, original live bands. There will be local food vendors as well as a kid’s area.

Friday: 5 pm – 12 am, Saturday, 2 pm – 12 am.

Old Capital Blues and BBQ Fest: August 23 and 24, 2019

Friday: 5 pm – 12 am Saturday, 2 pm – 12 am. The Old Capital Blues and BBQ Fest is an annual summer event in the Downtown. It features top blues bands, unbeatable BBQ, cold drinks and a lot of fun. For more information, go to the website of the Illinois Times Event.

Illinois State Fair: August 8 – 18, 2019

At Illinois State Fairground. A state fair is an annual competitive and recreational gathering of residents in individual states. The original idea of a state fair was promoting state agriculture in the 19th century. Today, it has been expanded to include many recreational activities, for instance carnival amusement and games, display of industrial products, and entertainment such as musical concerts. In Illinois, the IL state Fair will be held from August 8 to 18 this year. You can explore Illinois product exhibitions and have fun.
There are many historically important spots in the downtown. Before the new semester starts, why don’t you stop by and get to know about Springfield, IL? Here are some recommendations.

- Abraham Lincoln’s Home: one of the National Parks in the US
- Old State Capital
- State Capital
- Dana Thomas House
- Illinois State Museum
- Governor’s Mansion
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http://www.uis.edu/internationalstudentservices/

On Facebook
OISS supports the immigration, academic, cultural, and social experience of all UIS international students.

Come visit the International Student Services in HRB 10 have all of your international student questions answered.

Hours: Monday—Friday
8:30am—5:00pm